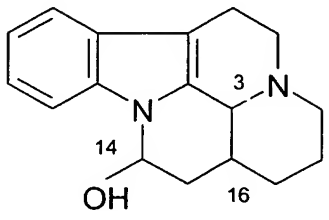
CLAIMS

1. Use of a compound with general formula (I)



(I)

for which the hydrogen atom in position 3 and the hydrogen atom in position 16 are *trans*, the hydroxyl radical in position 14 possibly being in α or β form,

or one of its pharmaceutically acceptable salts for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment or prevention of major depressions, and/or for the treatment of disorders in the wake-sleep cycle.

2. Use according to claim 1, characterised in that patients suffering from major depression that are to be treated or for whom prevention is planned are partially or totally resistant to treatment by classical antidepressants.

3. Use according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the depression is a bipolar type depression according to DSM IV classification.

4. Use according to claim 3, characterised in that the bipolar type depression is a major recurrent depressive disorder (MRDD).

5. Use of a compound such as that described in claim 1, for preparation of a pharmaceutical composition to treat patients suffering from major depression and resistant to classical antidepressant treatments, to make them sensitive to these treatments.

6. Use according to claim 1, characterised in that the said wake-sleep cycle disorders are selected from among narcolepsy, hypersomnia and a chronic hypo-arousal condition.

7. Use according to one of claims 1 to 6, characterised in that the compound with formula (I) or one of its pharmaceutically acceptable salts is in the form of a racemic or optically active mix.

8. Use according to one of claims 1 to 7, characterised in that the compound with formula (I) or one of its pharmaceutically acceptable salts is selected from among the following compounds with formula (I):

a) (3α) (±) 14,15-dihydro 20,21-dinoreburnamenin 14-ol; and

b) (16α) (±) 14,15-dihydro 20,21-dinoreburnamenin 14-ol,

and in which the mix of the two (+) and (-) diastereoisomers present in these compounds a) and b) is or is not in equimolar proportion.

9. Use according to one of claims 1 to 7, characterised in that the compound with formula (I) or one of its pharmaceutically acceptable salts is selected from among the following compounds with formula (I):

a) (3α, 14α) 14,15-dihydro 20,21-dinoreburnamenin 14-ol;

b) (3α, 14β) 14,15-dihydro 20,21-dinoreburnamenin 14-ol;

c) (14α, 16α) 14,15-dihydro 20,21-dinoreburnamenin 14-ol; and

d) (14β, 16α) 14,15-dihydro 20,21-dinoreburnamenin 14-ol.

10. Use according to one of claims 1 to 9, in which the pharmaceutical composition is administered orally, intravenously, or by an intraperitoneal or intramuscular method.

11. Use according to one of claims 1 to 10, according to which 20 to 60 mg of the compound with formula (I) or one of its pharmaceutically acceptable salts is administered daily in the patient to be treated.